

PRIDE SPORTS USA[®]

Officials Handbook Pride Sports USA
POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL Updated on June 28, 2025

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1 – INTRODUCTION

The Pride Sports USA Officials Policy and Procedures Guide has been prepared to complement and support the National Federation rule book and mechanics manuals.

As a member of Pride Sports USA Officials, officials should be aware of its content and committed to the Association goal of assisting self-improvement and upgrading the quality of umpiring for all the sport programs we service.

2 – EXPECTATIONS & INSTRUCTIONS TO UMPIRES

APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT: Pride Sports USA members are reminded that they are in the public eye. Each official should be reminded that they are an official representative of the Pride Sports USA, both on and off the field.

Under no circumstances should an official consume an alcoholic beverage anytime prior to or during the participation as an official of any game for any sport. Violations of this policy will be dealt with directly by the CEO/Founder (Keith London). Such occurrences may result in the loss of the remainder of an umpire's assignments and suspension or dismissal from the Association.

All umpires should take PRIDE in being an official for Pride Sports USA. Uniform slacks and shirts should be neat and pressed, caps should be clean, and shoes shined. Your other uniform items should be neatly kept. Hair length and facial hair should be in a manner consistent with your profession.

RULE BOOK: You should read some portion of your rulebook each day. Good umpiring requires knowledge of the rules, application of good common sense, and constant review of the official Pride Sports USA rules.

ASSIGNMENTS: Our leadership team makes all the game assignments.

ILLNESS OR INJURY: Each umpire is required to contact the Executive Director to inform them of their illness or injury as soon as it occurs. The Executive Committee shall assign a replacement, BUT we ask that the umpire finds a replacement. Any cancellation for an unacceptable reason will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: The use of all tobacco products by umpires is prohibited at all times in the locker room and on the playing field. Violations of this rule will be dealt with directly by the Executive Committee. In addition, umpires will be directly responsible for enforcing the National Federation prohibitions of tobacco use by participants before and during the game. All tobacco violations should be penalized immediately without warning. Reports of failure to enforce the tobacco policy will result in penalty(s) the Executive Committee deems necessary.

3 – PRIOR TO GAME

INCLEMENT WEATHER: If there is any chance of a cancellation or delay due to weather, our Executive Committee will be in direct contact with you.

Officials are responsible for keeping an eye on the weather the day prior and informing your contact on the Executive Committee.

ARRIVAL AT GAME SITE: Pride Sports USA Officials should arrive no later than 20 minutes before the scheduled game time. It is preferred members arrive 30 mins before the scheduled game time.

Upon arrival at the game site, you are responsible for starting the game on time. This means calling captains to home plate, 5-10 mins before the scheduled game time, to go over any updates and to flip a coin (for regular season games) Higher seed is home for Playoffs so no coin toss is needed.

4 - WEATHER CONDITIONS

If the weather is safe to play in, but rain from the past has made the field unplayable, we can and will use the grass outfield. The show must go on...for the most part, unless it really is unsafe. If umpires are scheduled to work games that are officially canceled and not made up the officials will not get paid. If the games are rescheduled, we will inform the official and hope to work it into their schedule. Pride Sports USA usually plans back up rainout dates. Please keep these dates open just in case.

5 - DURING PLAY

Officials are in charge of keeping and reporting the official score. We will have score boards at the fields. Please use them and adjust them every half inning. We don't allow the players to change the score as they might make a "mistake" and flip over too many or too few.

6 - REPORTING THE SCORES

Please text your contact the scores IMMEDIATELY after the last games are done. Failure to report game scores on the same day will result in 1 game pay deducted from pay. These players are sending us mass emails to find out the standings and we need to get the scores in ASAP.

When submitting the texts PLEASE triple check the scores are correct and there are no mistakes.

The text should look as followed.

City you are in

Date

Game Time

(Team Name) (Score) (Team Name) (Score)

(Second Game Time) (Team Name) (Score) (Team Name) (Score) etc..

7 - AFTER GAMES

Dallas 6.12.20

12PM Fireballs 5 Bunt Cakes 6

etc.

Sending score right away, double check them. Please clean up after yourself and if you see any trash on the fields please help out by pick it up and throwing away.

8 - INSURANCE

Officials are responsible for carrying their insurance on them at all times when officiating games. Officials are responsible for using their own insurance in case of any and ALL injuries related to officiating at our events.

9 - HANDLING SITUATIONS

OVERVIEW: Handling situations on the field presents one of the most challenging aspects of the job. Almost anyone can learn to call balls and strikes and use good judgment on plays on the bases. How you handle situations can make you stand out in the profession or make you an umpire that both teams and other umpires do not want to work with.

Officials should keep the game under control and not make situations worse. Do not "throw fuel on the fire." Every situation is unique and discretion is a very important element of the job. However, the following guidelines provide a basis which you can rely on while handling situations on the field.

Remain calm, confident and non-confrontational, always maintaining an appearance of fairness and impartiality.

Be a steadying influence on the game. Umpires must be able to sort out complex and important situations and should not hesitate to make unpopular decisions.

Do not ignore occurrences on the field that, in their judgment, require their attention to maintain control and order. However, not every comment on the field deserves acknowledgment. When difficult situations arise, stay “above the fray” and do not adopt the emotional level of a particular player or manager. Use common sense and knowledge of the rules at all times.

Attempt to listen to players and managers if their comments and demeanor are reasonable. Never initiate an argument, always avoid profanity and do not insist on the “last word” or follow someone who is walking away. However, do command respect and do not tolerate abuse.

Do not use language that, if used by a player or manager toward an umpire, would result in discipline.

Do not initiate physical contact. Avoid finger pointing or aggressive gestures during an argument.

Keep control of the game and attempt to defuse any potential confrontation between representatives of opposing teams. If a fight does develop, stay clear and let coaches break up the fight. Identify offenders and take action as necessary after things have calmed down.

ARGUMENTS: Each umpire will handle their own discussions and arguments. It is recommended that the partner stay within hearing distance. Officials should keep conversations one on one, stay calm, keep your comments to a minimum, and refrain from making hand gestures. The uninvolved partner should see to it that all others are escorted from the area and do not, under any circumstances, get involved in a conversation with any other participant. Stay focused on the official involved in the argument and be ready to assist if necessary.

ARGUING JUDGMENT CALLS: Pride Sports USA allows only the Captain of the team to ask game/rules question to the official.

FIGHTS: Try to stop the initial charge. Never grab anyone from behind. If the fight continues, back up, find your partners, and get help from game management. Take numbers and identify individuals involved in order to properly in force ejections and suspensions.

EJECTIONS: The responsibility of ejection is not one to be taken lightly. Consider the following principles when deciding whether to eject someone from a game.

Use of profanity specifically directed at an umpire or vulgar personal insults of an umpire.

10 - OFF THE FIELD PROBLEMS

Any problems that occur that are not related to actual game play should be reported to the Executive Director immediately. Do not try to solve problems including but not restricted to: parking, dressing rooms, security, crowd control, game fees, press or media relations, game management personnel, or others. Please share any concerns you might have or have experienced at our meetings.

The Executive Committee is committed to addressing any and all concerns on behalf of the entire Association. Your intervention into these problems could cause a lot of confusion and some hard feelings.

11 – UNIFORM STANDARDS

Pride Sports USA officials are expected to maintain a professional appearance while in uniform and keep in mind that they are representing the organization both on and off the field.

HATS: Umpires are to wear Pride Sports USA hats (\$25) or a hat with no logos, while working all assigned games.

UNIFORMS: Warm Weather

Black jersey (PROVIDED by Pride Sports USA), black pants/shorts and black shoes.

12 - HAVE FUN OUT THERE!

Pride Sports USA's number one rule is to HAVE FUN. We want our officials to have fun out there too. Always keep it professional but if there's music playing, you're allowed to dance for a moment. A lot of players are new to sports in general, so be encouraging (without looking like your favoring one team over another)

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Physical contact.

Refusal to stop arguing, and further delaying a game after the umpire has given adequate opportunity to make a point. Warn the player or manager that he has been heard and should return to his position or be ejected.

Use of histrionic gestures (jumping up and down, violently waving arms or demonstrations) while arguing or stepping out of the dugout and making gestures toward an umpire. Throwing anything out of a dugout (towels, cups, equipment, etc.) is an automatic ejection.

Actions by players specifically intended to ridicule an umpire such as drawing a line in the dirt to indicate the location of a pitch or leaving equipment at the plate after striking out with less than two outs.

Throwing equipment in disgust over an umpire's call may be grounds for ejection.